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Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:T;
APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO
NEA:ALATHERTONJR.
DOD/DSAA:HFISH (SUBS)
S/S: MR. BORG
---------- 099401
O R 072117Z APR 76 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T STATE 083920

NODIS

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, US, IR

SUBJECT: TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS

REF: TEHRAN 3130, TEHRAN 3480

1. FOR CAIRO: YOU HAVE SEEN REFTEL DESCRIBING EGYPTIAN REQUEST THAT IRANIANS PROVIDE TRAINING ON F-4S, F-5S, AND C-130S, AND IRANIAN APPROACH TO EMBASSY TEHRAN ON THE SUBJECT. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH EGYPTIANS, AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU THINK APPROPRIATE, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

2. THE IRANIANS HAVE TOLD US ABOUT AN EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR TRAINING ON F-4S, F-5S, AND C-130S. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW FROM THE EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. AS EGYPTIANS KNOW FROM PREVIOUS CONVERSA-
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TIONS WITH US RELATING TO THE SAME SORT OF TRAINING PRO-

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GRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA, THIS POSES CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FOR US.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE FIRST IMPORTANT SALE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT IN MANY YEARS. THE GENERAL QUESTION OF US MILITARY RELATION-

SHIP WITH EGYPT IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ONE FOR THIS REASON. TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS ON F-4 AND F-5 AIRCRAFT WOULD GIVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT WE HAD MADE DECISION TO PROVIDE THESE AIRPLANES TO EGYPT AND UNDERMINE CREDIBILITY OF OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. TRAINING ON C-130S WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN US AND EGYPTIANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SALE OF C-130S.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, IT WOULD POSE REAL DIFFICULTIES FOR IRAN TO PROVIDE TRAINING ON THE THREE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION. ULTIMATELY, SOME TRAINING ON C-130S MIGHT NO LONGER HAVE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IT NOW HAS AND WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. WE WILL BE REPLYING IN THESE TERMS TO IRANIANS BUT WANTED FIRST TO TALK WITH GOE ABOUT IT.

5. FOR TEHRAN: TELL TOUFANIAN THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE EGYPTIANS, THAT IT GIVES US PROBLEMS, AND THAT WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN ABOUT IT.

6. IF TOUFANIAN SHOULD AGAIN RAISE SAUDI TRAINING OF EGYPTIAN PILOTS, YOU SHOULD REPLY THAT THE PILOT TRAINING WAS SUSPENDED EARLY THIS YEAR AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT BEEN RESUMED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PILOT TRAINING, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALES, NEGOTIATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE083920
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARDAY:T;
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840098-2502
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760486/aaaacvpo.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 3130, 76 TEHRAN 3480
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN PILOTS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, EG, US, IR
To: CAIRO TEHRAN JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006